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World Pg 8

Clinton voices her support for unity, Obama

Man stabbed for refusing panhandler

INVESTIGATION A Vancouver man is recovering after being stabbed in the stomach by a homeless man.

Const. Jana McGuinness said the suspect approached the victim near Homer and Robson streets around 10 p.m. on Monday, and asked for change.

"(The victim) said, 'I don't have any money,' and then this man just stabbed him in the stomach right there without any provocation," McGuinness said.

The victim fell to the ground and the suspect rifled through his pockets.

"He had nothing on him," McGuinness said. "All that for what? There was nothing obtained from his pockets. This person is willing to go to that level to steal money from this man."

The victim was treated for minor injuries and is expected to recover.

Anyone with information is asked to call police.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/ METRO VANCOUVER

Homeless soccer

Catching dreams

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Leef Evans, a member of the Vancouver Dream Catchers homeless soccer team, practises at Oppenheimer Park in the Downtown Eastside yesterday. Players, most of whom are no longer homeless, handed out soup and hygiene kits. Coverage, page 4.

Mumps expected to hit Vancouver

VIRAL INFECTION The mumps outbreak that began in Agassiz is spreading west to Metro Vancouver, experts from the Fraser Health Authority said yesterday.

So far, the number of confirmed and suspected cases in B.C. is approaching 200 since an outbreak of the disease in February.

One of the reasons for the spread is that some conservative Christian groups in the Fraser Valley are against vaccination of all kinds.

Mumps is an acute viral infection of the salivary glands and can cause fever, headache, muscle ache, and swelling.

It's spread through saliva and officials are worried it'll spread faster once school restarts.

METRO VANCOUVER

Celebrity page 26

Pam's still got a home at Hef's

Please recycle

Crime rate lowest in 30 years

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

British Columbia reached its lowest crime rate in three decades last year, with an 8 per cent decline in crimes reported to police compared to 2006, according to statistics released yesterday.

The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics found that violent crime, homicides and property crime all went down.

Jen James, 27, a Vancouver accountant, said she was "shocked" by the news, which she said doesn't reflect what she sees.

"It seems like all we hear recently is people getting shot (or stabbed)," she said.

"Crime is always on the news," added Amy Nakamura, 28. "It doesn't seem more peaceful by any means.

But Chris Bevan, 25, said it might not be crime that's down, but that people are reporting it less.

"I think the news sensationalizes crime," he added. "When I was living up North you'd think the Lower Mainland was going to burn (with all the news of crime). You don't hear about much else up North."

In spite of the overall decrease, some crimes have continued to rise in B.C.

Vandalism and disturbing the peace went up slightly, and the drug trade rose 10 per cent.

B.C. Solicitor General John van Dongen said the provincial government has made an effort to invest in more policing. "However … there is still work to be done, particularly with high-profile gang shootings and drug offences," he said.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

- In 2007, violent crime dropped four per cent to a new 20-year low.
- Homicides dropped 19 per cent, property crime declined 9 per cent and vehicle theft fell 30 per cent.
- The biggest decrease was in counterfeiting, which went down 65 per cent.

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Blood needed before the long weekend
Canadian Blood Services is asking British Columbians to give blood ahead of Labour Day. There's usually a higher-than-average number of car crashes on Labour Day weekend, which brings a greater demand for blood. NEWS1130.COM

Local

Kicking the habit with hooves

Former junkies could be caring for horses if Vancouver's supervised injection site goes ahead with outdoor expansion plans. Recovering addicts would work with horses as a form of long-term treatment.

CKNW.COM

Citytv
ROGERS

More men taking over grocery duty

STUDY More Vancouver men are hopping behind the supermarket cart and helping shop for the household than before, according to a study released yesterday.

Checking Out The Canadian Grocery Experience, conducted for MasterCard, found in households with multiple adults, 15 per cent have a male who has primary responsibility for grocery shopping. Another 41 per cent have men who share the responsibility equally with others. It also found men are more indulgent and more likely to buy snacks than women.

Brett Lockhart, 31, a city teacher, said he shops with his girlfriend about 75 per cent of the time and prefers it to shopping alone.

"We like to help each other out and make decisions together," he said, adding he also tends to buy more snacks than her. "When I go by myself I tend to splurge on stuff like that."

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

'I'm a life-long athlete'

Simon Whitfield's won 2 medals, and he's not done yet

JEFF HODSON
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Still on a high from his dramatic come-from-behind silver at the 2008 Beijing Games, Simon Whitfield suffered a momentary flash of panic when he "misplaced" his medal at Beijing's airport.

"I was running around in a panic looking for it," said Whitfield, 33, who is in Vancouver to promote Sunday's Nike+ Human Race, a 10-kilometre run held in 25 cities around the world.

Whitfield, who won gold in Sydney in 2000, spent several frenzied minutes searching until teammate Colin Jenkins, who had sat on the medal as a joke, asked, "'What are you doing? Looking for this?'"

Yesterday, with both medals firmly in hand, Whitfield, 33, said he hasn't yet reached the finish line of his athletic career. He said he wants to immediately plunge back into training for the 2012 Games in London.

"I'm a life-long athlete. I love it. I love what I do and the lifestyle that comes with it. Travelling around and sharing that with my daughter and my wife over the next four years will be pretty special."

Whitfield, who has been a triathlete for 18 years — more than half his life — said his body is so conditioned to exercise it aches when he stops training.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Simon Whitfield with his gold medal from the Sydney Games and his silver from the Beijing Olympics in Coal Harbour yesterday.

Getting into the Nike+ Human Race

- In Vancouver, the Nike+ Human Race starts Sunday at 7 p.m. behind Queen Elizabeth Theatre at the corner of Georgia and Cambie streets.
- Registration is $50 and is online at www.nikeplus.com. A free concert with Theory of a Deadman and the Trews will take place after the race.

ShareYourViews
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News in brief

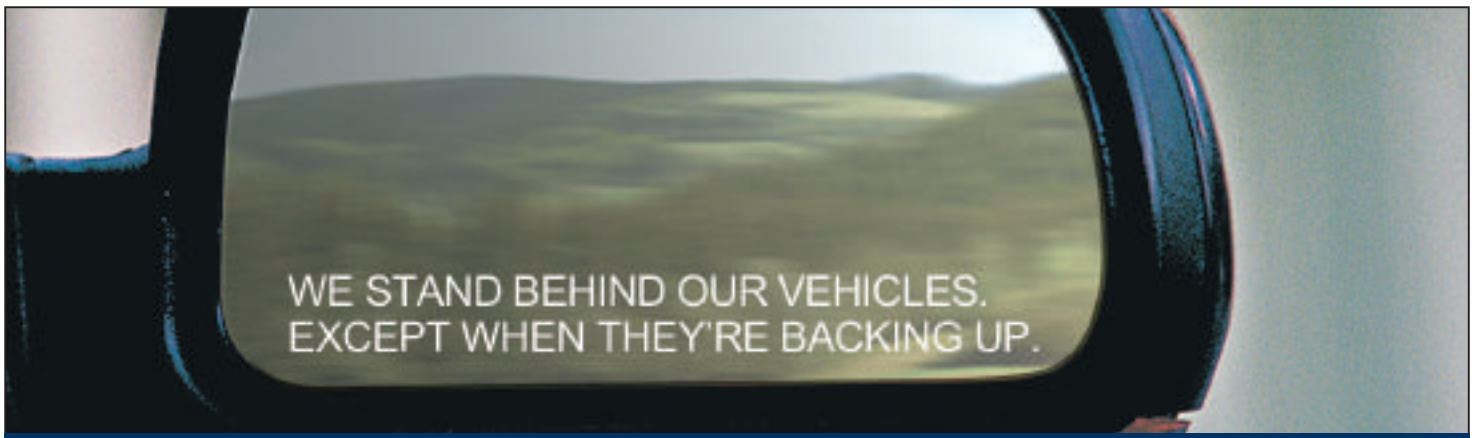
ARRESTED Cops arrested a Surrey man wanted for attempted murder for stabbing his 19-year-old ex-girlfriend and hitting her in the head with a dumbbell. Shahzad Sardar Ali was arrested on Monday and appeared in court yesterday.

SHOT A man who was shot in a Surrey parking lot is expected to recover, police said yesterday. The man, who is known to police and was likely targeted, was shot around 10:30 p.m. on Monday. METRO NEWS SERVICES

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Watch reports on disgruntled Hillary Clinton supporters hoping to spoil Obama's party at the DNC convention and on Stephen Harper practically ensuring a fall election for Canadians. Also, a look at the Conservatives' $100M plan to map the Arctic's resources

Read Urban Foodie Anya Levykh's interview with Don Letendre, executive chef at the Opus Hotel



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Trail to connect Deep Cove to Horseshoe Bay
The North Shore received a million-dollar boost by the provincial government yesterday to develop its own version of Vancouver's seawall. CKNW.COM

Kicking homelessness to the curb with soccer

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

A group of soccer players hit the pitch at Oppenheimer Park yesterday, taking part in a final scrimmage before heading to the national "homeless" soccer tournament.

Ten members of the Vancouver Dream Catchers will take part in the Street Soccer Canada Nationals in Calgary, Sept. 11 to 14. A few members will also be selected to represent Canada in the Homeless World Cup in Melbourne, Australia in December.

"Our team's excellent," said Peter Davies, 27, a goalkeeper who was living on Vancouver's streets a year ago.

"Our team spirit is really good … We enjoy playing as a team and we're really looking forward to Calgary."

Team founder Rhonda Alvarez said the goal of street soccer is social inclusion through sport. Finding people housing is a top priority.

Of the 15 members of the team, nine were living on the streets at one point. Today, all but two have housing.

"Players end up getting more involved in their community," Alvarez said. "Getting off drugs, getting off alcohol and wanting to do more productive things with their own lives."

Kicking it

- Forty eight countries will compete in the Homeless World Cup. A documentary about the tournament, Kicking It, narrated by actor Colin Farrell, is available on YouTube.

Curb your speed this weekend

KRISTEN THOMPSON
for Metro Vancouver

If you plan on doing any driving over the long weekend, watch your speed.

Vancouver police will be watching for fast and aggressive drivers as roads swell with Labour Day and back-to-school commuters.

Const. Greg Bismeyer said yesterday most collisions and fatalities happen on long weekends and added roads are already getting busy.

"On my way to work this morning I saw the aftermath of an accident (on Hastings Street)," he said.

"I saw the vehicle sitting on the road with a smashed-in windshield, and it was obvious that a pedestrian had been hit.

"Definitely next week we will want people to be way more attentive because (of) the little ones," Bismeyer said.

Speeding tickets start at $138 and can go up to more than $1,000 with accumulated driving offences.

Const. Melissa Yamamoto said she once stopped a driver doing 134 k./h on Granville Street.

She said radar guns can detect a car's speed as long as it's visible.

"It's just a matter of lining up a red dot like a sniper gun," she said.

11 The number of traffic fatalities in Vancouver this year, almost half of them pedestrian deaths.
METRO VANCOUVER

KRISTEN THOMPSON/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Vancouver Police Const. Melissa Yamamoto on Nanaimo Street yesterday.

Defence gives final arguments in UBC kidnapping case

TRIAL The defence began its final arguments yesterday in the trial of five men accused of kidnapping former University of B.C. student Graham McMynn.

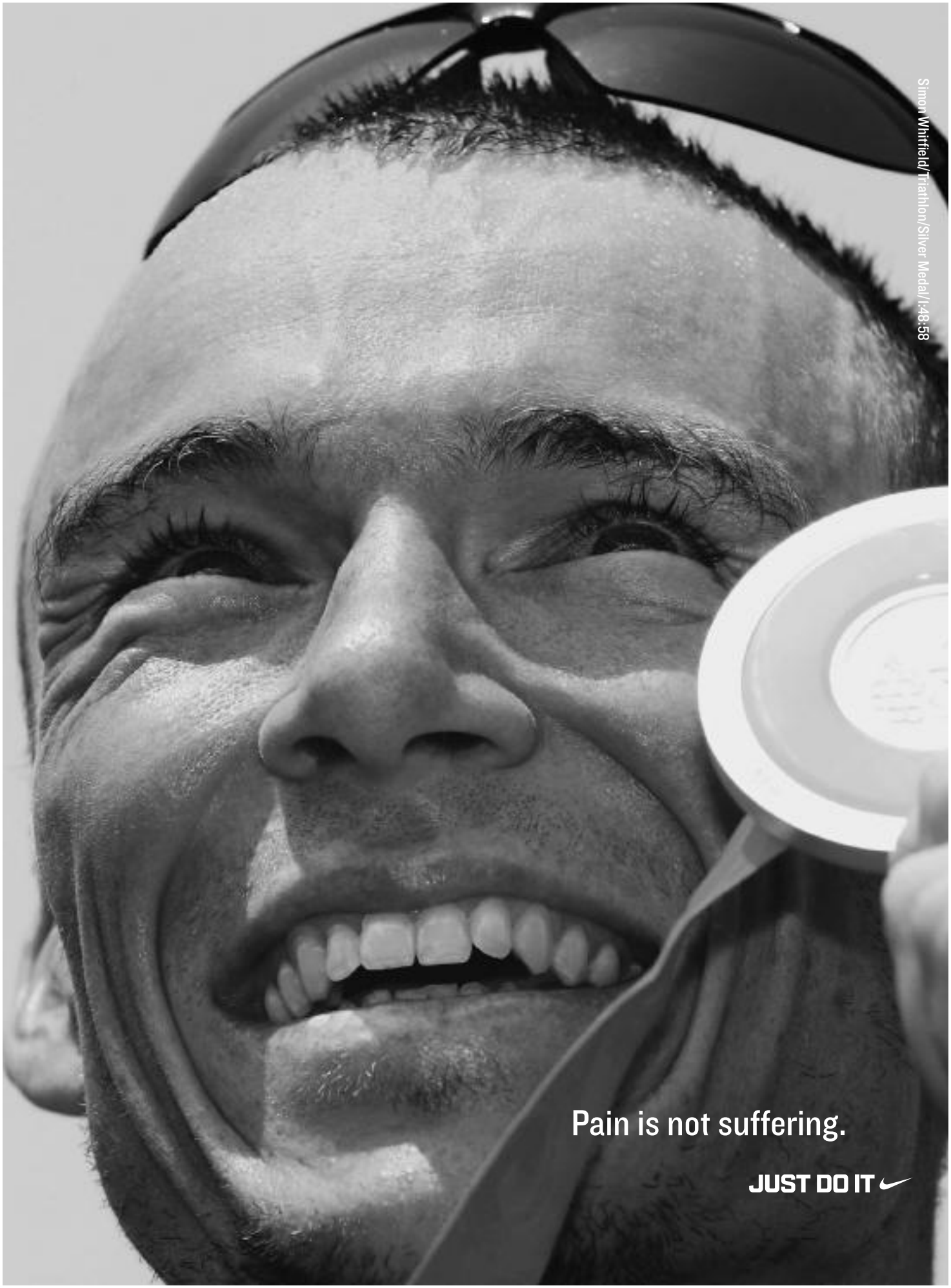
Lawrence Myers, who is representing one of the accused, Van Van Vu, said there's no evidence to implicate Vu in the 2006 abduction.

The Crown said Vu's DNA was found in one of the houses where McMynn was held, but Myers argued Vu's presence in the home doesn't prove he was involved in the crime.

METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

ARREST David Singh Grewal, wanted by police for domestic assault, turned himself in to Richmond police yesterday. He is scheduled to appear in Surrey Provincial Court tomorrow.
METRO VANCOUVER


Simon Whitfield/Triathlon/Silver Medal/1:48:58
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Investigation ordered into Saskatchewan prisoner escape

Saskatchewan's minister of public safety has ordered an investigation into why 15 hours passed before authorities alerted the public about a prison break by six inmates. One of the inmates, who are all considered armed and dangerous, has been caught, but the other five remain at large. SOURCE: CBC NEWS ONLINE

Canada

Transit upgrade back on track

Toronto's transit authority said yesterday it will recommend to its commissioners that it enter into a new bidding process with three major light rail manufacturers to replace the city's aging streetcar fleet after the initial process was scrapped last month. The Toronto Transit Commission said that it will propose starting discussions with Bombardier Inc, the Canadian arm of Siemens and Alstom for the $1.25-billion contract. REUTERS

News in brief

ELECTION Prime Minister Stephen Harper appears ready to call a fall election Tory insiders say. A national campaign could kick off as early as next week, Harper suggested.

MONTREAL An Air France aircraft skidded off the runway at Montreal's Trudeau airport yesterday, but there were no apparent injuries or serious damage. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Tasers **Report postponed**

CHRISTINNE MUSCHI/REUTERS

Brian Black of Taser International demonstrates its use at a trade show for the Association of Chiefs of Police in Montreal yesterday. The Canadian Police Research Centre announced at the show that the release of a long-awaited report on the medical effects of stun gun use has been postponed until next year.

Maple Leaf hit with lawsuits

Four separate class-action lawsuits have been filed against the company that recalled ready-to-eat meats linked to the nationwide outbreak of a deadly bacterial infection.

The lawsuits, filed in Ontario, Saskatchewan, Quebec and British Columbia named Maple Leaf Foods, which was linked to the ongoing outbreak after some products at a Toronto plant tested positive for the listeria bacterium last week.

"Between the telephone calls to our various offices and the people who have contacted us by way of the Internet, we've already heard from about 500 people," said Evatt Merchant, a partner in the Calgary office of the Regina-based class-action specialty law firm that filed all four suits.

"We've already heard from about 500 people."
Evatt Merchant

There are now six deaths in Ontario that are being blamed directly on the outbreak strain of Listeriosis monocytogenes while another six, including three in Toronto, are under investigation. The death of a Victoria B.C. man is the only one outside Ontario linked to Listeriosis. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Benign skin cancers may be 'warning sign": Study

People who have had a normally non-fatal form of skin cancer have double the risk of developing other types of cancers, U.S. researchers said yesterday. They said the increased risk is especially pronounced in younger people. REUTERS

World/Business

Clinton takes spotlight

Hillary Clinton offered a rousing plea for Democratic Party unity yesterday, promising to work for Barack Obama and challenging her supporters to bury their grudges and rally behind his White House bid.

"The time is now to unite as a single party with a single purpose," Clinton told a roaring crowd, adding she could not sit on the sidelines and watch Republican presidential candidate John McCain "squander the promise of our country."

"No way, no how, no McCain. Barack Obama is my candidate and he must be our president," Clinton said in the spotlight at the Democratic convention.

Clinton's enthusiastic call for party unity was designed to end a rift that has clouded the convention to nominate the first-term Illinois senator to face McCain in the Nov. 4 election.

The second day of the convention focused on economic themes and began to lay out Obama's plans to aid lower- and middle-class voters suffering in a faltering U.S. economy, which polls show is the top issue.

Obama, 47, had tried to ease the lingering tension by giving Clinton and her husband, former president Bill Clinton, major roles at the convention. Bill Clinton will speak tonight.

The convention's keynote speaker was former Virginia governor Mark Warner.

The convention's first night focused on presenting the softer side of Obama and featured his wife, Michelle Obama. REUTERS

MIKE SEGAR/REUTERS

Hillary Clinton addresses the 2008 Democratic National Convention in Denver, Colorado.

Plot to kill Obama?

- U.S. authorities yesterday were investigating whether three men arrested in Colorado with guns and drugs planned to kill Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama, but said they posed no real threat.

OnlineVideos
metronews.ca

U.S. to Russia: We're not shipping arms to Georgia

GEORGIA Russian President Dmitry Medvedev yesterday accused the United States of shipping arms to Georgia on U.S. naval vessels, but Washington denied the charge.

Medvedev made the charge when he was asked if Russia was mounting a blockade of ships off Georgia's Black Sea port of Poti, where the American warship USS McFaul is due to deliver humanitarian aid.

White House spokesperson Tony Fratto, speaking in Texas, said the accusation was ridiculous.

President George W. Bush yesterday condemned Russia's decision to recognize the two breakaway regions of Georgia as independent, saying Moscow was ratcheting up tensions and complicating negotiations. REUTERS

News in brief

TRAVEL Air traffic at some major U.S. airports returned to normal yesterday after many planes were delayed due to a glitch in the computer system for filing flight plans, the Federal Aviation Administration said. The glitch may have come from an internal software processing problem.

INDIA Rising rivers in eastern India that swamped more land and homes yesterday have affected more than 2 million people since June.

AFGHANISTAN President Nicolas Sarkozy repeated his pledge yesterday that French troops would remain in Afghanistan following last week's Taliban ambush that killed 10 soldiers. REUTERS

Business

Mobile outlook downgraded

TORONTO Moody's has lowered its outlook to "stable" from "positive" for wireless giants Rogers, Bell and Telus, citing the threat of new rivals following Ottawa's recent wireless airwave auction, which allows contenders into the market.

Restrictions on foreign ownership of telecom companies have allowed the three "to pursue profit-oriented growth strategies in a protected market," Moody's said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

In brief

BANKS Scotiabank and BMO reported their third-quarter results yesterday. Scotiabank posted net income of $1 billion, a two per cent decline from the same time last year, while BMO's profit tumbled 21 per cent to $521 million.

BANK OF CANADA Deputy governor David Longworth said yesterday Canada's economic growth will be weaker than expected in the second quarter, while inflationary pressures would fall with lower oil prices. He didn't hint at any interest rate changes. REUTERS

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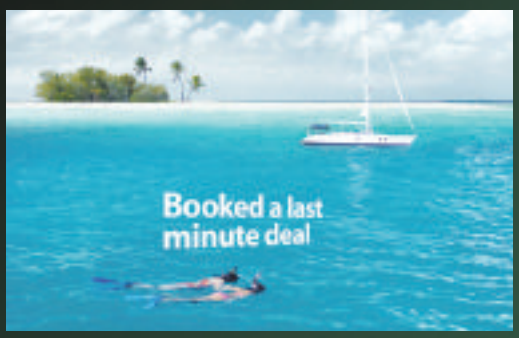

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NFL

New York Giants defensive end Michael Strahan will reportedly remain retired, turning down an offer to come back and play for the Super Bowl champions. According to a report on FoxSports.com yesterday, Strahan did not want to put his body through the rigors of a 15th NFL season. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports

Sakic could reveal plans

Veteran centre Joe Sakic, left, might announce tomorrow whether or not he will be back on the ice for a 20th NHL season. According to the Denver Post, Sakic will speak at a news conference tomorrow before his charity golf tournament. However, the newspaper also claims that there is no guarantee that Sakic has come to a decision on his future. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: JONATHAN P. KUEHLEIN, SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Argos sharpening axe for Stubler

Toronto's coach could be ousted if team loses Labour Day classic to Tiger-Cats: Source

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

A Labour Day loss may result in a coaching change for the Toronto Argonauts, a club source tells me.

His information:

If the Argos lose in Hamilton Monday — and that's feasible, since the Tiger-Cats defeated Toronto in two previous games this season — the teams would be tied with 3-6 records and Rich Stubler could be fired as head coach and possibly demoted to his former position of defensive co-ordinator.

Replacing Stubler would either be ex-head coach Michael "Pinball" Clemons, who's been resisting overtures from ownership because of his preference to focus on his family and his CEO responsibilities with the Argos, general manager Adam Rita, who has decades of CFL coaching experience, or assistant GM Greg Mohns, a former head coach of the B.C. Lions.

"We've unloaded players (backup quarterback Michael Bishop, who was traded to the Saskatchewan Roughriders, and safety Orlondo Steinauer, who was released) and, if we can't beat Hamilton, we'll review our head-coaching situation," the Argos' source said. "It's possible Stubler isn't cut out to be a head coach. He might just be one of those guys who's able to be a great co-ordinator, but doesn't have the skills to be a good head coach."

GEOFF PARKIN/TORONEWS

Broadcaster Cabral "Cabbie" Richards shows off the new state-of-the-art studio at The Score television network yesterday.

• Truth is, Stubler is demonstrating an irascible personality as a head coach and it's rubbed both players and management types the wrong way. I'm told Stubler and Mohns won't even talk to each other … Looks like Hamilton will start backup Richie Williams at QB Monday as Casey Printers, the CFL's highest-paid player, is still complaining about a sore thumb … And, hey, why haven't I been receiving any e-mails from boasting Roughriders fans lately? Might it be that the team, losers of two consecutive games, is falling apart, just as I suspected it ultimately would? After a 6-0 start, the Riders find themselves only two points ahead of the Calgary Stampeders and Edmonton Eskimos.

• Major changes are happening at Canadian sports networks.

TSN will launch another channel, TSN2, this week, while The Score will introduce a state-of-the-art studio next week that'll include innovative bleachers and sliding glass windows to encourage fan participation. Maverick programming chief Richard Garner envisions fan involvement as a key element in The Score's future.

The outside of the network's Toronto building will offer passersby a massive screen that will display sports information and broadcasts.

The network also plans to throw a huge street bash, featuring luminaries such as ex-NHL star Wendel Clark and musicians Kardinal Offishall and The Trews.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

Ivanovic dodges first-round exit

TENNIS Ana Ivanovic needed every scrap of her youthful ebullience yesterday to narrowly avoid the humiliation of becoming the first top-seeded woman to lose in the opening round of the U.S. Open.

It took the 20-year-old Serbian just over two hours to make her standing as world No. 1 count against a valiant Vera Dushevina and she booked her place in round two with a 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 win.

Perhaps still troubled by a right thumb injury which ruled her out of the Olympics, Ivanovic randomly misfired her shots to notch up 40 unforced errors.

Realizing how close she had come to establishing an unwanted record, Ivanovic said: "I really hope I can stick around for some time."

Four-time champion Roger Federer launched his U.S. Open title defence with a 6-3, 6-0, 6-3 win over Argentine Maximo Gonzalez.

Slovakian 11th seed Daniela Hantuchova, however, fell by the wayside when she was flattened 6-4, 6-2 by qualifier Anna-Lena Groenefeld. **REUTERS**

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Sports in brief

NHL Former Canuck Todd Bertuzzi was officially introduced to the Calgary media yesterday as he prepares to play for his sixth NHL team. Bertuzzi urged Flames' fans to give him a chance, despite the fact he was once public enemy No. 1 in Cowtown during his time with Vancouver. He also asserted his belief that the pressure of a Canadian market will allow him to thrive despite the constant scrutiny in the media. **SCOTT RINTOUL/METRO VANCOUVER**

MLB Major League Baseball announced yesterday that it will enact instant replay for home run calls this week. The use of replay will begin in series that start tomorrow and after.

MLB Vernon Wells homered and drove in three runs to lead the Toronto Blue Jays to a 6-2 win over the Tampa Bay Rays last night in Florida. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

SCOREBOARD

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Tampa Bay	79	51	.608	—
Boston	76	55	.580	3½
N.Y. Yankees	70	61	.534	9½
Toronto	68	63	.519	11½
Baltimore	62	70	.470	18

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago Sox	76	56	.576	—
Minnesota	74	58	.561	2
Cleveland	64	67	.489	11½
Detroit	64	68	.485	12
Kansas City	56	76	.424	20

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
L.A. Angels	80	51	.611	—
Texas	65	68	.489	16
Oakland	60	72	.455	20½
Seattle	50	82	.379	30½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Philadelphia	73	59	.553	—
N.Y. Mets	73	60	.549	½
Florida	67	65	.508	6
Atlanta	58	74	.439	15
Washington	47	85	.356	26

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago Cubs	82	50	.621	—
Milwaukee	77	55	.583	5
St. Louis	73	60	.549	9½
Houston	66	66	.500	16
Cincinnati	58	74	.439	24
Pittsburgh	57	75	.432	25

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Arizona	68	63	.519	—
L.A. Dodgers	65	67	.492	3½
Colorado	62	71	.466	7
San Francisco	58	73	.443	10
San Diego	49	82	.374	19

LAST NIGHT'S RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Toronto 6 Tampa Bay 2
Boston 7 N.Y. Yankees 3
Chicago White Sox 8 Baltimore 3
Cleveland 10 Detroit 4
Texas 2 Kansas City 1
L.A. Angels 5 Oakland 0
Seattle 3 Minnesota 2

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Atlanta 10 Florida 9
Cincinnati 2 Houston 1
Chicago Cubs 14 Pittsburgh 9
Milwaukee 12 St. Louis 0
Washington 2 L.A. Dodgers 1
Philadelphia 8 N.Y. Mets 7 (12 ings)
San Diego 9 Arizona 2
Colorado 7 San Francisco 2

TODAY'S GAMES

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Minnesota at Seattle, 1:40
Boston at N.Y. Yankees, 4:05
Cleveland at Detroit, 4:05
Chicago W. Sox at Baltimore, 4:05
Toronto at Tampa Bay, 4:10
Texas at Kansas City, 5:10
Oakland at L.A. Angels, 7:05

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Chicago Cubs at Pittsburgh, 9:35
Arizona at San Diego, 12:35
N.Y. Mets at Philadelphia, 4:05
Florida at Atlanta, 4:10
L.A. Dodgers at Washington, 4:10
Cincinnati at Houston, 5:05
Milwaukee at St. Louis, 5:15
Colorado at San Francisco, 7:15

AL BATTING LEADERS

Name, team	AB	R	H	AVG
Bradley Tex	345	69	112	.325
Kinsler Tex	518	102	165	.319
Pedroia Bos	535	97	170	.318
Mauer Min	418	81	133	.318
Youkilis Bos	456	79	145	.318

NL BATTING LEADERS

Name, team	AB	R	H	AVG
Pujols StL	421	80	151	.359
Jones Atl	370	68	133	.359
Holliday Col	450	94	154	.342
Berkman Hou	457	99	151	.330
Theriot ChiC	480	70	152	.317

CFL

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PTS
Saskatchewan	6	2	0	12
Edmonton	5	3	0	10
Calgary	5	3	0	10
B.C.	4	4	0	8

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PTS
Montreal	5	3	0	10
Toronto	3	5	0	6
Hamilton	2	6	0	4
Winnipeg	2	6	0	4

WEEK 10

FRIDAY'S GAME
B.C. at Montreal, 4:30

SUNDAY'S GAME
Winnipeg at Saskatchewan, 12

MONDAY'S GAMES
Edmonton at Calgary, 1
Toronto at Hamilton, 4:30

SOCCER

GAMES FEATURING THE VANCOUVER WHITECAPS MEN'S TEAM:

TONIGHT'S GAME
Atlanta at **VANCOUVER**, 7

BASEBALL

NORTHWEST LEAGUE GAMES FEATURING THE VANCOUVER CANADIANS:

LAST NIGHT'S RESULT
Everett 4 **VANCOUVER** 2

TONIGHT'S GAME
VANCOUVER at Everett, 7:05

U.S. colleges experiment with social media for emergency alerts
Several American colleges are testing out online social networks to notify students of emergencies. The University of Maryland has set up a Facebook group where alerts are posted, while UCLA is developing a similar page on MySpace. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

UBC water controversy

The University of British Columbia and its Alma Mater Society are looking to boost free water access on campus with chilled water centres to refill bottles. The health critic suggests water coolers as a short-term solution. The AMS announced it will stop selling bottled water at society-owned businesses in the Student Union Building in upcoming months. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Women entrepreneurs aren't alone at the top

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Running your own business can be a Herculean task but with good planning and sound management sense more women than ever can show they're up to the challenge.

Nell Merlino, president of non-profit women's entrepreneurial resource site Count Me In, says the most important piece of advice women entrepreneurs need is to delegate work.

"We somehow confuse this notion of running our own business with doing everything ourselves. Focus on what you're best at, stick to it and hire other people to do the rest," Merlino said.

Above all, make sure that what you're selling is profitable. Merlino recommends going to trade shows to see what competitors are charging for similar products or services, checking with suppliers for costs of materials and even Googling for price comparisons on the Internet.

"You've really got to be very clear that whatever you're selling you can make money with. It's very challenging at the start to know how to value your time and your product — don't get caught not charging enough," Merlino said.

quick tips

- Stay healthy, take charge, innovate and get support from family and friends.

Taking charge and seeing problems before they happen is important too.

"Business is not something that happens to you. Being proactive is key. Don't wait until you start to see negative numbers before taking action. Try to see the changes taking place and shift to take advantage of the economy," Merlino said.

Mental and physical health is also a top priority though more often than not it falls by the wayside as meetings, phone calls and flooded inboxes take precedence over trips to the gym and picnic dates with loved ones and family members.

"It's very important to take care of yourself. If you're not feeling confident you won't be as well with your business," she said.

To boost your confidence, make friends with other entrepreneurial women to ensure you have an experienced ally to consult with.

"Being CEO of your company is kind of lonely. You have to create or find a community of other women trying to do the same thing," Merlino said.

Methodica Acting Studio
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Nell Merlino, president of non-profit women's entrepreneurial resource site Count Me In, says the most important piece of advice women entrepreneurs need is to delegate work.

Maclean's to host online university and college fair

Students looking for information on Canadian post-secondary institutions can now save their gas money for textbooks, as Maclean's will host a new virtual university and college fair online. The fair will be online on Oct. 22, and will be archived online for 90 days afterwards. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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"THE GOLDEN RULE IS THAT THERE ARE NO GOLDEN RULES."
–GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

Customs used to define Canadian employment law — not contracts. When there was a workplace dispute, judges would decide cases based on what was reasonable or just or what the parties would have agreed to if they had thought about the issue from the outset. Customs, however, have been replaced by comprehensive employment contracts and lawsuits for wrongful dismissal. Now, instead of being asked to consider what's most reasonable or fair, judges are asked whether a contract applies and, if so, what its terms represent. But what happens when a contract doesn't accurately portray the true nature of an employee's job? As La-Z-Boy Canada Ltd. recently learned, sometimes employees are not bound by the agreements they have agreed to.

Having landed on the wrong side of a government audit, finding that its commissioned sales agents were actually employees, La-Z-Boy needed to make a change. All of its agents would be made to sign independent contractor agreements, confirming that they were not employees.

The new relationship made sense for La-Z-Boy. It could avoid the overhead and costs associated with its outside sales staff and it could use the new arrangement to satisfy further audits. As well, since the law requires that only employees, not contractors, are entitled to severance pay when fired, La-Z-Boy could avoid paying severance too — or so it thought.

Fourteen-year company veteran Gordon Braiden was one of its sales agents. Braiden was told that, in order to continue at his job, he would have to sign annual agreements stating that he was not an employee but rather, a contractor and that he could be fired with only 60 days' notice. Despite the clause, Braiden signed his name and continued to work as before.

Nine years later, Braiden was fired. La-Z-Boy gave him 60 days' notice, according to the agreements. However, believing that he was actually an employee and therefore entitled to more substantial severance, Braiden challenged La-Z-Boy's agreements in court — and recently he won.

Although Braiden signed an agreement stating that he was a contractor, the court confirmed that the true test is not what a signed agreement states but rather the nature of the employer's control and the employee's vulnerability in the relationship. Under the new agreements, Braiden still worked full time and

Sometimes people on work contracts can actually be considered actual employees.

La-Z-Boy continued to control what products he sold, how he sold them, where his sales territory was and what promotional methods to use. Therefore, despite his label, the court found him an employee.

Labelling a worker as a contractor is not dispositive, even if the employee agrees. The court will always consider the true nature of the relationship to determine how the parties actually behaved.

If you want to employ or be employed as a contractor, then do as follows:

- Ensure that there is a clear separation between the employer's business and the contractor. Permit the contractor to perform services for others and to maintain genuine discretion over how and when to perform the job. Even an airtight independent contractor agreement will not be reliable unless the parties stick to what it says.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focusing on the law of dismissal; dan@canadaemploymentlawyer.com.

One-third of women say they're paid less than men

WAGES While some may say the "glass ceiling" in the office is being shattered, according to a new survey from CareerBuilder.com, the Battle of the Sexes continues in the workplace.

Employers are increasingly introducing programs to promote equality, yet more than one-third (34 per cent) of female workers say they feel they are paid less than their counterparts of the opposite sex with the same skills and qualifications. Eleven per cent of men say they feel they are paid less than their female counterparts. The survey included 4,328 male workers and 3,632 female workers nationwide.

Comparing salaries, 40 per cent of men surveyed reported they make $50,000 or more, compared to 21 per cent of women surveyed. Nineteen per cent of men earn $75,000 or more, compared to 7 per cent of women. On the other end of the pay scale, 47 per cent of women reported they make $35,000 or less compared to 28 per cent of men.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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CMA Office - Suite 1055, 555 Burrard Street, Vancouver

OR call Jameel immediately at 604.484.7024 or jameel@cmabc.com

If you're born under the Leo astrological sign, then you are more likely to enter into a government, legal services, art/design/architecture, engineering, entertainment, real estate or education career path, according to a recent survey.

Your career path seen in the stars

Are middle children more likely to program computers or fight fires? Do Scorpios or Capricorns belong to a higher earning bracket?

A new survey from CareerBuilder.com looks at profession, compensation and job satisfaction in relation to birth order and astrology sign. The survey of more than 8,700 workers was conducted across industries.

The survey found that a higher percentage of workers who were the first born in their families earned $100,000 or more annually compared to their siblings. The last born were the least likely to earn six figures.

ASTROLOGY

Scorpio, Leo, Taurus and Cancer signs were among the most likely to earn $100,000 or more annually while Aquarius and Capricorn signs were among the most likely to earn $35,000 or less.

Certain career paths were more prevalent in certain astrological signs as well.

- **AQUARIUS:** Sales, military, engineering, mechanic, food preparation, facilities management and transportation;
- **PISCES:** Social work, personal care, IT, facilities management and mechanic;
- **ARIES:** Government, construction, hotel/recreation, IT, education and transportation;
- **TAURUS:** Nursing, engineering, attorney/judge, marketing/public relations and higher education;
- **GEMINI:** Art/design/architecture, nursing and personal care, sales, law enforcement, firefighter and machine operation;
- **CANCER:** Government, legal services, advertising, higher education, machine operation, transportation and military;
- **LEO:** Government, legal services, art/design/architecture, engineering, entertainment, real estate and education;
- **VIRGO:** Social work, sales, hotel/recreation, editing/writing and food preparation;
- **LIBRA:** Social work, government, advertising, machine operation, law enforcement, firefighter, sales and education;
- **SCORPIO:** Legal services, engineering, science, education, construction and skilled trades;
- **SAGITTARIUS:** Editing/writing, marketing/public relations, entertainment, hotel/recreation, IT and military;
- **CAPRICORN:** Art/design/architecture, nursing, science, IT, sales, farming and food preparation.

Pisces, Sagittarius and Capricorn signs reported being the most satisfied with their current jobs while Gemini and Cancer signs reported being the least satisfied.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Save on fuel surcharges

Time is counting down on Trafalgar's fuel-surcharge saving offer. You have until Aug. 31 to book an air-inclusive vacation that departs before Dec. 31, 2008, and you can save $300 per couple. See *trafalgar.com* for more details. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Travel

Insider's eats

No traveller wants to pay an exorbitant price for lacklustre food, but that indignity always seems worse when you're in a destination known for its gastronomic prowess. The September issue of Gourmet magazine — which is dedicated to exploring Paris on a budget — can help you avoid such a predicament. Some of the content is also posted at *gourmet.com/travel/cityguides/paris*. METRO NEWS SERVICES

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

Strolling Berlin's hippest 'hoods

JENNIFER LESIEUR
Metro World News

Imagine a city eight times the size of Paris, with hardly any more inhabitants. Imagine parks and roads like gigantic sports pitches. Imagine rent and dinners that are half the price of most of Europe.

Berlin isn't necessarily the most beautiful city in the world, but it is one of the most pleasant. It's no surprise that it's a magnet for a wide range of creative types, from artists to musicians. Following are some of the city's trendiest neighbourhoods; explore them by foot or, as Berliners would, by bicycle.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Shopping for streetwear in Berlin.

Kreuzberg

Take a walk down Zossener Strasse and loiter awhile at Soultrade-Scratch records, and its neighbour, Space Hall, the best record shop to go to for the lastest CDs from Berlin indie labels including Kitty-Yo and BPitch, *soultrade.de*. Just below, Bergmann Strasse is a quiet little road where the café terraces sit side by side with flea markets and upmarket boutiques.

Stop at Bagage, where all sorts of cutting-edge bags hang from the walls and brands include Kultbag and Bereitschaftstasche. Two metro stations away is the start of Oranienstrasse. It would be impossible to count the design shops here — there's nothing else! Fashionistas should navigate towards the immense space that's home to local fashion label UVR Connected, *uvr-connected.de*, then move on to the designs for sale at Cherry Bomb. Hit the Videodrom Shop, a pop culture paradise, for an impressive choice of films, books and mainstream gadgets.

Prenzlauer Berg

The Prenzlauer Berg area stretches out around the metro station at Eberswalder Strasse. Lose yourself in Pappelallee, Schliemann Strasse and Duncker Strasse before ordering a bespoke bag made from recycled materials at Tausche, at Helmholtzplatz, *tausche-berlin.de*.

Walk down Kastanienallee (where you'll find Prater, the oldest biergarten in the city) and stray down the roads just off it, where artists have transformed the buildings and created little stores where variety is king. Second-hand clothing fans should visit Schwedter Strasse, a tranquil street lined with pretty cafes.

Mitte

You'll find the main streetwear brands — including Carhartt, Crumpler, Wesc and Vans — along and around Oranienburger Strasse, the main road running through the Mitte district. Rosenthaler Strasse is streetwear paradise, and skaters meet up at Titus Shop on Spandauer Strasse, *titus.de*.

For hip homewares, stroll on to Neue Schoenhauser Strasse and stop at Schoenhauser, *www.schoenhauser-design.de*, where you'll find everything from '50s stools to an ashtray made from boiled cardboard.

Next, walk up Alte Schonhauser Strasse, base camp of local fashion labels such as Skunkfunk.

Feeling tired? It's time to take a design break: Walk to number 17 Rosa-Luxemburg Strasse and take a seat at Susuru, *www.susuru.de*, a funny little noodle bar with space age décor — it's chic and cheap, with excellent food.

METRO WORLD NEWS

The routes our writer recommends will take you through streets transformed by resident artists.

Travel tips

How to get there:

- Low cost carriers fly to both Schoenefeld and Berlin Tegel. Both airports are about 20-30 minutes by Airport Express train from the centre.

Where to stay:

- Winter's Hotel Berlin Mitte am Checkpoint Charlie is a quiet hotel with minimalist décor, *www.winters.de*.
- Hotel Berlin Berlin on Lutzowplatz has 700 newly renovated rooms, *www.hotel-berlin-berlin.com*.

Reading matter:

- Pick up the free magazine Ein000, available in shops across the capital.

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Go green

If you're looking for information on sustainable travel, Expedia.ca has gathered its green options under *expedia.ca/green*. You'll find details on eco-friendly hotels and reducing your carbon footprint, as well as tips for responsible travel. METRO NEWS SERVICES

JULIA DIMON PHOTOS/FOR METRO CANADA

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Transylvanian farm life reflects a simpler time

TheTravelJunkie

A visit to the tiny Romanian town of Türé (or Turea) is like travelling back in time.

Horse-drawn carriages packed full with freshly cut hay trot along bumpy dirt roads. Craggy old people with craggy old faces make picture-perfect postcards of a simpler time. Grandmothers milk cows, churn butter, have wells in their backyards and know their way around a plow.

If it weren't for the satellite dishes growing out of houses like mushrooms on cow patties, you might think you'd been transported back to the early 1900s. A surprising number of people here lack running water and indoor plumbing but, with the wonders of modern technology, they can tune into stations like MTV.

Having just come from cosmopolitan Bucharest — where Ferrari-lined streets, fashionable coffee houses and could-be-supermodels are common — this was the "simple life."

I found myself in this Transylvanian village as part of a two-day home-stay run by Carpathian Tours. Australian-owned, this company offers customized cultural vacations through the Hungarian, Slovakian and Romanian countryside.

It's a chance to learn about the music, dance and social practices of the area — all with the help of a translator and knowledgeable guide.

Accommodations may be humble (my room had no door and the bathroom looked more like a tool shed) but, by staying with the local people, I'm able to get an insider's view.

My crash course in traditional Transylvanian culture starts with breakfast. Here in Türé, early morning risers enjoy buffalo cheese, thick slices of white bread, pork sausage and a shot of Pálinka.

This local brandy brew gets the day started off right and is sipped on with each meal. It's considered rude if you turn down the offering, so, despite having just brushed my teeth, I reach for the shot glass and started boozing. It goes down my throat in one gulp, burning my insides with the pang of cheap Tequila.

Pleasing my host, the guide and I (admittedly, a bit tipsy) venture into town. Shepherds guide buffalo into the village so they can be milked by their owners. They make their way down a mist-covered hill, mooing and jangling their cowbell necklaces.

Though I'm excited by the prospect of milking one myself, I find out the buffalos are quite skittish and don't let strangers ogle their udders.

From there, we visit a traditional "good room." It's an elaborately decorated living room used for entertaining guests and matching prospective boy suitors with unmarried girls. The room is stacked with embroidered blankets, tablecloths and doilies, all hand spun from wool, cotton or hemp.

Cabinets are hand-painted, stenciled in red, white and green (a symbol of the Hungarian flag) with recurring motifs of roses, tulips and green branches. Though it's impressive, this crafty form of home-making has been abandoned by the new generation.

In the time of Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu (leader from 1965-1989), expression of Hungarian culture and music was forbidden. As a result, much of local culture was lost.

My two-day tour of Transylvania had me tossing hay with a pitchfork, step-dancing to live village music and picnicking with Pálinka under a full moon.

A traditional Hungarian "good room" is used to entertain guests.

Julia's tips

- Carpathian Tours offers customized cultural vacations through the Hungarian, Slovakian and Romanian countryside. Visit *carpathiantours.com.au*.

Local musicians perform for tourists.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN, and editor of thetraveljunkie.ca.

Automotive

A METRO JOINT VENTURE WITH: carguide magazine.com

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Bimmer style on budget

Affordable 1 Series Coupe can make BMW dreams real for many car lovers

BILL MCLAUCHLAN
for Metro Canada

The tidy little 1 Series Coupe leads the way in BMW's return to a smaller, lighter, more affordable car, slotting nicely below the increasingly larger, heavier and more expensive 3 Series models that currently earn the German automaker's bread and butter.

Though a range of engine options are available in other markets, we're only getting a pair of 1 Series models: The 128i with a 230-horsepower, 3.0-litre, in-line six under its hood, and the 135i, which has a superb 300-hp, twin-turbo version of the same 3.0-litre unit.

In its coupe body style, the 1 Series starts at $33,900 for the base 128i while the twin-turbo 135i carries a proportionately higher $41,700 sticker price to reflect its added performance and equipment levels.

There are also a couple convertible versions, too: The 128i Cabriolet carries a sticker price of $39,900 for your top-down driving pleasure while its range-topping 135i counterpart is priced at $47,200.

The crisp, clean lines and compact shape of the Coupe are quite attractive to the eye with its long hood, trapezoidal greenhouse, clearly defined shoulder line and long wheelbase.

It looks fast even while standing still.

Inside, the perfectly-sized steering wheel, short gear lever, circular instruments and high-quality materials are all as eye-catching as they are functionals.

Depending on the option package(s) you choose, tech toys abound, including optional Bluetooth phone integration, navigation, and iDrive. Oddly, though — despite an included auxiliary input jack — the lack of cubbyholes in the centre console might mean your iPod Touch has to sit in one of the cupholders.

Talking about how the crisp-looking coupe drives is a matter of mixed messages.

On the plus side it does handle very nicely indeed. The engine in the 135i snarls musically with … ah, shall we say, eager throttle applications.

Heel-and-toe downshifts from the standard six-speed manual transmission are a blast, and the world is simply a series of highly entertaining corners. All that performance doesn't come with a hefty penalty at the pumps either: We saw around 10 L/100 km even with enthusiastic use.

On the down side was ride quality, perhaps a little too stiff for "normal" everyday driving needs.

Despite such minor quibbles, the 1 Series Coupe is surely something to salivate over. It looks great. It's agile afoot.

And excellent handling, precise steering and ideal weight distribution give it a real sporting character. If you like sports-style driving, taking a seat in the 1 Series will feel like coming home.

The crisp, clean lines and compact shape of the Coupe are quite attractive to the eye. Inside, the perfectly-sized steering wheel, short gear lever, circular instruments and high-quality materials are all as eye-catching as they are functional.

2008 BMW 1 Series Coupe

Type: Compact 2-pass. coupe, RWD
Price: $33,900 – $41,700
Engine: 3.0L L6 DOHC/3.0L L6 DOHC twin-turbo
HP: 230 @ 6,500 rpm/300 @ 5,800 rpm
Torque: 200 @ 2,750 rpm/300 @ 1,400 rpm

Highlights

- The BMW experience on a budget
- 135i is a poor man's M3
- Great engines
- Muscular looks
- Handling

New campaign putting hydrogen fuel-cell technology to test

As environmental awareness increases, so does the need for better fuel alternatives. One of those energy sources is getting a lot of buzz — and moving from laboratory testing to the road.

Hydrogen fuel cells are electric energy sources that have the potential to power everything from cellphones to large buildings. For cars, they provide zero-emission power and don't use any oil.

And although actual hydrogen fuel vehicles are a few years down the road, most major auto manufacturers have already started hydrogen programs.

A new campaign, called "Project Driveway," is putting fuel cell technology to practice in the largest market test ever. As part of the project, Chevrolet is loaning 100 Equinox Fuel Cell electric vehicles to select families across the U.S.

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All that, and practicality, too

Retro-looking Chevrolet HHR SS is a usable ride for everyday people

BILL MCLAUCHLAN
for Metro Canada

In its milder LS and LT guise, the Chevrolet HHR is pleasant to drive, with a good balance between ride and handling. Inside, below, there's a feeling of roominess.

Beneath its retro appearance, the HHR is simply a nicely executed station wagon. Think of it as a Chevrolet Cobalt wagon in drag, as it's based on the same solid architecture as the popular Chevy coupe/sedan.

Thanks to its retro shape, the interior is roomy and comfortable, the rear seatbacks fold fully flat and the cargo deck is hard-surfaced … all of which makes the HHR a usable ride for everyday people and cargo hauling chores. In that respect, the well-equipped base LS and LT models — at $19,855 and $21,185, respectively — represent nicely packaged value.

Both trim levels include standard features such as air conditioning, power windows, door locks and mirrors, cruise control, remote keyless entry, electronic stability control, ABS and traction control.

In its milder LS and LT guise, the HHR is pleasant to drive, with a good balance between ride and handling. The base engine is a fuel-efficient 155-hp, 2.2-litre "four" while there's a 172-hp, 2.4-litre four-cylinder optional choice (standard on the step-up LT 1SC trim). Transmission choices are standard five-speed manual or optional four-speed automatic.

By the way, new for '09, those engines are Flex Fuel capable, meaning they can run on E85 ethanol, gasoline or any combination of the two fuels. Also, the 2.2-litre engine receives variable valve timing technology that optimizes performance and efficiency.

The $28,240 HHR SS, first seen in the 2008 model year, adds turbocharged zest with a 260-hp output from its 2.0-litre four. To help handle this extra performance the SS rides on a racetrack-tuned suspension system, giving it a modern athleticism that contrasts sharply with the retro styling.

Even so, you won't sacrifice anything in ride comfort for such driving entertainment. Body motions are tautly controlled. The steering has a pleasing blend of precision, feel, response and effort.

Inside, there's a feeling of roominess, with the high roofline providing plenty of headroom. Quality is also conveyed in the well-bolstered sport seats, which provide firm support yet plenty of comfort for long drives.

The short-throw manual shifter, which sits higher and farther forward, has a nice precise feel. A smaller-diameter steering wheel — sporting an SS logo plus radio and other control features — complements the precise steering action.

There's also a turbo boost gauge mounted on the windshield pillar, 225 km/h speedometer, driver information centre located in the gauge cluster, SS-specific satin nickel cabin trim accents and contrasting interior colours that contribute to the SS's sporty look.

2009 Chevrolet HHR SS

Type: Compact 5-pass. wagon FWD
Price: $28,240
Engine: 2.0L L4 DOHC Turbo
HP: 260 @ 5,300 rpm
Torque: 260 @ 2,000 rpm

Highlights

- Funky retro look
- Standard safety and stability control system
- Interior room
- Cargo flexibility

Farmer rides into record books

Steve Burgess, a farmer from West Yorkshire, England, has put himself and his Land Rover Defender into the record books by becoming the first person in history to successfully cross the Bering Straits in a road vehicle.

Earlier this year, the 52-year-old Burgess, travelled 16,700 kilometres in 50 days to the Easternmost tip of Russia in temperatures as low as –46 C.

Then, in a masterstroke that differs from others who tried the voyage before, instead of trying to cross the Straits while they were covered with ice, he simply waited for it to melt in the summer.

Once that happened, he strapped two huge floats on the sides of his Defender, added a motor and propeller on the back and sailed across the 90-kilometre stretch of water, pausing on the island of Little Diomede as the weather closed in, before continuing a few weeks later when conditions improved.

Steve Burgess became the first person in history to successfully cross the Bering Straits in a road vehicle earlier this year.

"It's been a phenomenal trip," said Burgess. "I can't say it was all enjoyable — I wouldn't do it again — but it has been incredible.

"Landing on Wales was brilliant. It was the culmination of nearly nine years work, and to be the first to get across was incredible.

"I'd watched other people before me try to do it — rich people, big companies — and I thought, 'How am I going to square up to these people?' But I showed them how it's done."

Honda Fit attempts to raise the bar

SUBCOMPACT The 2009 Honda Fit is set to go on sale across Canada on Sept. 15 with a Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price of $14,980.

It features an enhanced sporty demeanour, sure to increase its fun-to-drive character through a more powerful engine and improved suspension, steering and body rigidity.

The new Fit is designed to "raise the bar" in the Canadian subcompact market by taking what is already great about the Fit and making it even better, said Jerry Chenkin, executive vice-president of Honda Canada Inc.

Prices range from $14,980 for the entry-level Fit DX with manual transmission to the $20,480 Fit Sport model with five-speed automatic.

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Think beyond SUVs

Alternatives let you enjoy big car convenience

If you love the safety and driving confidence of an SUV, but cringe at the cost of filling the tank, we've got good news for you.

It's possible to get the advantages of a four-wheel-drive system — especially great traction in a wide variety of weather and road conditions — in all-wheel-drive vehicles that combine the 4WD performance of a truck with the fuel economy, performance and handling, and easy-to-park dimensions of a car.

There are many reasons it takes a lot of gas to run a traditional SUV: most are built on truck platforms, so they're large and heavy; it takes a big engine to move all that weight around; and, because less aerodynamic than most cars, SUVs have to work harder to overcome air resistance.

Fortunately, there are alternatives, such as the Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive system from Subaru. This is a full-time system that combines a powerful aluminum boxer engine, a strong but lightweight transmission and centre differential, and an aerodynamic alloy body frame that's designed for maximum occupant protection. The result is a great combination of strength for safety and rigidity for handling and durability.

New technology, such as the Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive system from Subaru, gives the advantages of a four-wheel drive without having to pick up an SUV's fuel bill.

Just as important, this Symmetrical AWD system is designed to be extremely compact and well balanced, with a low centre of gravity. That means a very low risk of rollover—and makes room for a long-travel suspension that keeps the ride comfortable even on life's bumpiest roads. And fuel economy is competitive with North America's most popular compact and mid-size family cars.

So, if you want great traction and handling and great fuel economy, an All-Wheel Drive vehicle is an excellent choice.

NEWS CANADA

Ford kick-starts Fiesta production

Ford has begun production of its all-new Fiesta model, the first in a portfolio of global small cars, at the Cologne Stamping and Assembly plant in Germany.

The next-generation Ford Fiesta, destined for the North American market in 2010, was developed by the European arm of the automaker's global product development team to meet the demands and expectations of customers around the world.

The Cologne plant is the first Ford assembly facility in the world to build the new global car.

Ford Fiesta being built at the firm's Cologne plant.

In North America, the new subcompact will be offered in two models: a hatchback and a two-door sedan.

They will be built at the company's Cuautitlan Assembly Plant in Mexico in 2010.

Toyota improves Sienna

Toyota has made its Sienna better for the 2009 model year and given it more appeal by lowering the suggested retail price on all models.

Now you can choose between fuel-efficient front-wheel drive and the extra confidence of all-wheel drive, and opt for seven- or eight-seat cabins.

With as many as seven models and a variety of trim levels to suit every taste and budget, the Sienna may be the ideal choice Canadians in need of great family transportation.

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Make the best of rental cars

Do you have a rental car horror story?

If you're planning to drive a rental car in Europe or elsewhere this travel season, it's worth spending a few minutes planning to avoid the most obvious pitfalls.

Standards of road safety in some European countries make Canada look like a relatively safe haven — and that is partially down to the maintenance and condition of the cars on the road.

If you rent a car on holiday, make sure you inspect for damage before you sign for it. Are the tires OK? Does it have adequate oil and water? Likewise, at the end of the rental period, make sure the car company checks and signs it "clear" for you.

Knowing who to call and what to do if your car breaks down while travelling in EU countries is important for your safety.

Spend a minute or so familiarizing yourself with the layout: It's a strange car and, if you're planning to drive in the U.K., everything may be the wrong way around for starters.

Make sure you are comfortable with the brakes and steering: Don't feel pressured to throw your bags in the trunk and be on the road in 30 seconds.

Find the knobs and buttons and make sure they are working. And pop the trunk lid to check that the spare tire is where it should be.

Find out what to do if you break down, get a puncture or discover a fault while driving. Is there an emergency breakdown service you can call provided with the car?

Before you set off, remember to check the rules about returning it with a full or empty fuel tank. And — yes, it happens on holiday, too — make sure you know if the car is gasoline- or diesel-powered to avoid refuelling problems.

Road safety experts have described air conditioning in warm climates as more than a luxury — it's a safety feature if you are driving on holiday.

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Harrelson joins zombie comedy

Actor Woody Harrelson will star in forthcoming comedy film Zombieland. The movie revolves around a mismatched pair of survivors who find friendship in a world overrun by zombies. IMDB.COM

Entertainment

Extras may sue

Tom Cruise's troubled film project Valkyrie has been hit with another setback — extras on the film are allegedly threatening to sue movie bosses over on-set injuries.

IMDB.COM

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

MTV 'tarnished' Ozzy's image: Son

Jack Osbourne

PEOPLE Jack Osbourne wants to set the record straight about his famous father. And that means taking a few swipes at the MTV reality show that put his family back on the map, People.com reports.

"I think The Osbournes, to a degree, tarnished the public's perception of my dad as a bit of a senile, funny, bumbling guy," Jack tells Rolling Stone. "Yeah, my dad can be that guy, but it's not (all of) him."

Now Jack is trying to rejuvenate his dad's rock legacy. He has recruited his friends and his dad's former bandmates to contribute to a documentary he is shooting.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Betrayal drives Traitor

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Traitor couldn't have been an easy movie to make. Not only is the terrorism thriller set in 17 cities on three continents, but it required shooting the film in just 48 days on a tight budget. Who would want to take on that overly ambitious endeavor? Well, Don Cheadle for one.

The complex story of a secret Muslim officer that infiltrates a global terrorism ring only to find himself being hunted down as a traitor.

"It was very interesting that one of the things we learned post 9-11 is that there were something like three Arabic-speaking agents that we had in our (enforcement) agencies," says Cheadle during an interview in New York. "How do you understand people that you can't even talk to?"

That was one of the primary themes that prompted Cheadle to help make Traitor — the idea that a lack in communication between cultures has only fuelled terrorism. It's not an easy notion to sell to movie studios either. As disappointing box-office revenues of other films dealing with the war on terrorism have mounted recently, studios are surely wary of that particular subject.

"They probably did their rounds with studios and received a series of ideas of how it should be changed and softened up," posits co-star Guy Pearce about the struggle to find backers. "(But writer/director Jeffrey Nachmanoff) just didn't compromise."

Actor Don Cheadle stars in Traitor, which opens in theatres Friday.

Instead, Traitor (in theatres on Friday) was lucky enough to find financing and still deal directly with such serious issues as race, religion and the role of ignorance in terrorism. Pearce adds: "I think (Nachmanoff did) a really good job of finding that balance between an entertainment and a thought-provoking topic."

Cheadle would certainly agree. Although he's first to acknowledge the film doesn't provide many answers to these issues, he does hope it will create an awareness in moviegoers minds. "It could be a cautionary tale on some level if you take it seriously," insists Cheadle. "Most human beings want equanimity; most human beings want peace; most human beings want safety. It's the people on the extremes that can obviously pull and push us and protract that argument."

VA	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 8/27/08	251	308	3	CBC	Coronation St.	22 Minutes	Little Mosque	Sophie	CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	255	358	6	CH	E! News	The Insider	Greatest American Dog (N)		Janice Dickinson Modeling		Jim Carrey: True Story		News (N)
	254	-	8	M	Law & Order: SVU		Mandarin News		Cantonese News (N)		Punjabi News (In Punjabi N)		The Simpsons
	250	321	9	CTV	eTalk (CC)	Hollywood	Law & Order "Darkness"		Criminal Minds (CC)		CSI: NY (CC)		News (N)
	-	-	10	OMNI	According-Jim	George Lopez	Happy Days	Growing Pains	Jeeves and Wooster (CC)		The Daily	Diya (CC)	New Day
	252	336	11	GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Bones "The Pain in the Heart; The Wannabe in the Weeds"				NCIS "Internal Affairs" (CC)		News (N)
	256	389	12	VI	Degrassi	Friends (CC)	America's Got Talent (CC)		America's Got Talent (CC)		Zombiemania		News (N)
	253	359	13	CITY	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Bio.: Reese Witherspoon		Rock of Love With Bret Michaels "Reunion"			Entourage	Reviews
	-	-	14	CW	'70s Show	'70s Show	America's Next Top Model		Pussycat Dolls: Girlicious		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15	CBS	Democratic Convention		KIRO News	Entertainment	Greatest American Dog (N)		Criminal Minds (CC)		News (N)
	287	379	16	NBC	Democratic Convention		America's Got Talent Ten of the top 40 contestants perform.				Dateline NBC (CC)		News (N)
	602	568	19	W	Will & Grace	Friends (CC)	Shopping	Style by Jury	Three Fat Brides		Coleen's Real Women (N)		Maxed Out
	288	380	21	ABC	Democratic Convention		Wife Swap "Coste/Ives"		Supernanny "Schrage Family"		Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	News (N)
	-	-	26	KVOS	M*A*S*H	Scrubs (CC)	Another You ★ (1991, Comedy) Richard Pryor, Gene Wilder.				Cheers (CC)	Scrubs (CC)	Seinfeld
	291	383	27	PBS	Democratic Convention		The Sixties: The Years That Shaped a Generation (CC)				Carrier "Full Circle"		Charlie Rose
	290	382	28	FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Bones "The Pain in the Heart; The Wannabe in the Weeds"				News (N) (CC)		Family Guy
	-	364	48	PBS	Democratic Convention		Keeping Up	Being Served	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		Mystery: Inspector Lynley	
	296	654	54	SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Cheers (CC)	South Park	Comics Un.	Half & Half	Entertainment	The Insider	Paid Program
	298	653	55	TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	America's Next Top Model		Pussycat Dolls: Girlicious		KTLA Prime News (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	58	WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	Sex and-City	Friends (CC)	Will & Grace	Will & Grace	My Wife-Kids
	297	652	57	WPX	CW11 News at Ten		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	Will & Grace	Frasier (CC)	George Lopez	Odd Couple
	199	311	76	STR	News (N)	News		Late Show-Letterman		(:37) The Unit (CC)		Late Late Show	
news	502	390	29	NW	Democratic Convention		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		China's Sexual Revolution		National
	500	500	69	CNN	(3:00) Democratic National Convention (CC)				Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22	RSP	Sportsnet	MLB Baseball Oakland Athletics at Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.					Sportsnet Connected		Sportsnet
	400	400	30	TSN	U.S. Open Tennis		SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		Motorcycle Racing Moto X World Championships. (Taped)				SportsCentre
	411	457	49	OLN	Departures (CC)		Pilot Guides (CC)		Don't Forget Your Passport		Word Travels	Strand-Peters	Departures
	410	403	54	SCR	Score Tonight		Schwab	World Series of Poker		Score Update	Score Update		Score Update
	417	406	55	SC	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pinks	Pass Time	Am. Thunder	Am. Thunder	Pinks	Pinks Out	Wrecked
	416	409	144	GLF	A Dose of Real-ity		Gol TV News		American Soccer		Paid Program	Kings Club	Gol TV News
family	552	543	25	YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Prank Patrol	Fries That?	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Falcon Beach (CC)		Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50	TEL	George	Tom & Jerry	Tom and Jerry	6teen (CC)	Total Drama	Futurama	Superman II ★★★ (1980) Christopher Reeve.		
	557	541	51	FAM	That's-Raven	Smart Guy	The Suite Life	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	553	546	56	TRE	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie	Beren. Bears	Babar (CC)	Backyard	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!	The Bittles	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	3	KNO	Meerkat	Undersea	Wipe Out (N)		A Most Mysterious Murder		For King and Country (CC)		Yo-Yo: Bach
	575	583	20	CMT	Home Imp.	Roseanne	Tara Diaries	Living, Dream	Reba (CC)	Hope & Faith	Home Imp.	Roseanne	Ed (CC)
	570	580	24	MM	Legally Blonde "You're Cut"		Hot & Wet 2008		Legally Blonde "You're Cut"		America's Best Dance Crew		Spotlight
	600	564	29	H&G	Flipping Out		Holmes	Holmes	Property Shop	City	Property	Unsellable	Flipping Out
	615	520	31	A&E	Criss Angel	Criss Angel	Jacked: Theft	Jacked: Theft	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Criss Angel
	628	584	32	SPKE	Real Vice	Real Vice	UFC Unleashed		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Star Trek: Voyager (CC)		Deep Space 9
	521	560	34	TLC	On the Road With 16 Children		Jon & Kate Plus 8		Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	On the Road With 16 Children		Jon & Kate
	616	522	39	SHO	ReGenesis "The Oldest Virus"		Da Vinci's Inquest (CC)		Trailer Park	Rent-A-Goalie	Big Love (CC)		House (CC)
	620	523	40	BVO	Entourage	Bravonews	Law & Order "Nullification"		Without a Trace (CC)		Mad Men (CC)		Signif. Others
	601	562	41	SLC	Inside Hollywood Breaking up.		X-Weighted (CC)		Work Out (CC)		Inside Hollywood Breaking up.		Trading Sp
	520	505	42	DIS	Mayday "Southern Storm"		Daily Planet (CC)		MythBusters (CC)		Dirty Jobs "Buoy Cleaner"		Mayday (CC)
	522	506	44	HIS	NCIS "Sea Dog" (CC)		Re-Inventors	Re-Inventors	Mob Stories "Puppet Master"		NCIS "Sea Dog" (CC)		Crime Stories
	627	528	45	SPC	Supernatural (CC)		Stargate SG-1 "Affinity"		Star Trek: Voyager (CC)		Star Trek: Enterprise (CC)		Star Trek Gen.
	294	650	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Domestic Disturbance ★ (2001) (CC)		
	619	525	48	TROP	TV Made	TV Made	ET Canada	What	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)	Family Guy
	603	561	52	FN	Italian Escape	Italian Escape	Challenge (CC)		Iron Chef America (CC)		Italian Escape	Italian Escape	Challenge
	626	547	57	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Laughs	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Lewis Black	RENO 911!	Daily Show
	320	621	60	CEN	(6:30) You Belong to Me (CC)		Slipstream ★★ (2007) Anthony Hopkins. (CC)		(:45) We Own the Night ★★ (2007) Joaquin Phoenix. (CC)				
	581	566	101	MTV	Run's House	Buzzin (CC)	MTV Live	After	The Hills	After	Run's House	Buzzin (CC)	MTV Live
	261	394	102	V	Call It Karma		Side Effects "Sixth Sense"		The End of Suburbia		Chambers	No Place Like	Paid Program
	-	-	106	MUL	The Land	Daughters	Van. Nights	Iranian Pop	Sabor Latino		Hola Que Tal		Patrol World

critics' corner

Supernanny

Jo Frost arrives to help the Shrage family in a small Southern town. The parents' marriage is in quite a state, considering they have not shared a bed in eight years. The three girls are so out of control that their own grandmother, who lives with them, refuses to dine with them. Though the girls present a lovely front to the outside world, at home they run rampant, and it's up to Supernanny to restore order.
9 PM on ABC

Criminal Minds

A teenage boy and his girlfriend are at the heart of this episode's murder mystery, which brings the profilers to a small town in Texas. A serial killer is apparently on the loose, and the more victims found, the closer they get to figuring out the killer's motive. Thomas Gibson, Joe Mantegna, Paget Brewster and Shemar Moore star in "Elephant's Memory."
10 PM on CBS

going out

8 p.m. GZA, brings the best of his classic album, Liquid Swords, to Vancouver. At Richard's on Richards, 1036 Richards St. Tix: $24.50. Info: richardsonrichards.com.

8 p.m. Scott Jackson and The Distractions perform live. At The Railway Club, 579 Dunsmuir St. Info: scottjacksonmusic.com.

9 p.m. Good to Go Wednesdays, with DJs Rico Uno and Daryl O. At Caprice Nightclub, 967 Granville St. Info: capricenightclub.com.

10 p.m. Dynasty Wednesdays, spinning old skool and hip hop. At Crush Champagne Lounge, 1180 Granville St. Tix: $8. Info: crushlounge.ca

In brief

TV CTV has ordered a second season of its hit original series Flashpoint. Thirteen new episodes are expected to head into production in early 2009.

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New hosting gig
Mario Lopez will host MTV's new series Top Pop Group, featuring new music groups. TVGUIDE.COM

Hudgens makes scene at airport

HollywoodNorth

Andrea Woo
andrea.woo@metronews.ca

Vanessa Hudgens is the latest wench to be added to the unenviable list of actresses who have further soiled their reputations (a la **Jessica Alba**) while in Vancouver. **The High School Musical** star was in town this past weekend for a reportedly unimpressive performance at the PNE and when it came time to fly out out, according to laineygossip.com, the Disney tart showed up 45 minutes before departure — half the recommended time for international flights. When flight attendants told her she might not make the flight, the 19-year-old pulled the old, "Do you know who I am?!" She also reportedly had more than 15 trunks and suitcases but tipped the baggage handler nada, despite having dropped an estimated $15,000 at Holt Renfrew the day before.

Horror movie veteran **Bill Moseley** (**Texas Chainsaw Massacre 2**, **House of 1,000 Corpses**) will be in town this week when filming begins for a new thriller written by **Marek Posival** and directed by **Robert Lieberman**. The currently untitled flick — which briefly went under the working title Tortured — is about a couple, played by Moseley and **Erika Christensen**, that goes bonkers after losing their son to a pedophile. Filming begins Tuesday.

As some may remember, Hollywood heavyweights **Johnny Depp**, **Jude Law** and **Colin Ferrell** were in Vancouver from February to April filming **The Imaginarium of Dr. Parnassus** at various locations around town including the Orpheum. The three were brought on to replace **Heath Ledger**, who died just four days before he was scheduled to arrive in the city. It's just been reported that Depp, Law and Ferrell will donate all their earnings from the film to Ledger's daughter **Matilda**, who was not in his will because he hadn't updated it since she was born. "We've got a movie full of wonderful people who did extraordinary things to help," said director **Terry Gilliam**.

Johnny Depp, left, and Vanessa Hudgens
GETTY IMAGES FILE

Andrea Woo is a Vancouver-based news and entertainment reporter.

Ratings don't measure success

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

UNRATED VERSION: There's still a lot of life left in broadcast television, but we know its expiry date is looming by the survival of shows like Battlestar Galactica, as detailed in a recent Associated Press story on the Sci Fi network's flagship show, now mere months away from its final airing.

Galactica has been a critic's favourite since its debut, which is another way of saying "brilliant but soon-to-be cancelled" if you're talking about a network show, especially one that draws the ratings Galactica has. According to the AP story, the radical revision of the '70s sci-fi cheese original is "scraping bottom" if you go by "the traditional ratings system" — from an average of 2.8 million viewers in its first season, it's lost a million viewers since then.

But Sci Fi is acting like the numbers don't mean much, and it's gone ahead with a Galactica prequel movie that's set to air after the final episode next year, and a spin-off series set two generations before Galactica's storyline kicks off. Caprica, the spin-off, has a trailer on YouTube and a pilot shot months ago, though the network seems to be playing wait and see before committing to a full season order.

Still, Sci Fi is showing remarkable confidence in a franchise whose ratings would have guaranteed a first season cancellation on NBC or CBS — or certain oblivion after just two episodes on Fox. Apparently the network is acting like it's already 2012, and bums-in-place-on-the-scheduled-night ratings aren't an accurate way of measuring the viewership of a show like Galactica.

Jamie Bamber, who plays Lee Adama on the show, told AP that he has a different way of measuring the show's success. "When the numbers were high I would get stopped in the street maybe once a week," Bamber said. "Now that the viewing figures are lower on the TV, everywhere I go someone will come up to me and say what a huge fan they are. That just tells me that people watch the show in a more modern way and that it has reached its sort of critical mass."

What he means is that tech-savvy Galactica fans have better things to do with their nights, and prefer to catch up on the show via TiVo or DVD — or the huge but legally troubling archive of internet downloads. One assumes the same sort of logic is behind the apparently untroubled reaction AMC has to Mad Men, its flagship but low-rated show. Since I'm one of those people who can't be bothered with scheduled viewing, it all makes sense to me, but I'm also aware that we're hard people to make money off, and that something, somewhere, has got to give before we can finally ascend into the brave new world of post-broadcast television.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

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Sheen expecting child with new wife

Actor Charlie Sheen, left, and his new wife, Brooke, are expecting their first child together, his rep has announced. The couple have been married since May. **PEOPLE.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

Hef's door open for Anderson

FRIENDSHIP Playboy king Hugh Hefner has offered Pamela Anderson the use of his mansion if she ever finds herself homeless, imdb.com reports.

The Baywatch star has appeared on numerous Playboy covers, and the 41-year-old knows she can rely on Hefner to put her up if she ever finds herself with nowhere to stay.

"(I asked Hefner) If ever anything goes wrong, I can come and live here, can't I?" she says.

Hefner replied: "Yes, of course. You are always welcome at my place."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Keira hates paparazzi

FAME Keira Knightley hates being pursued by the paparazzi — because it ruins her social life, imdb.com reports.

The Atonement actress is well-known for her distaste of snappers who try and secure photos of her personal life.

And the star has admitted her pals fail to invite her to social events in case they are harassed by eager photographers.

"One of them (friends) asked me if I would mind not going out with them to a restaurant one evening as they find the whole paparazzi thing alarming," she tells Britain's Tatler magazine. "I don't blame them. It can be very intimidating."

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Coldplay make clothes?

FASHION Coldplay have revealed they love to make their own clothes, female-first.co.uk reports.

Front man Chris Martin has told how the band like to sew and modify their own clothes together. Martin, 31, says the band's needlework habits help them bond.

"Making clothes together in our studio makes us feel complete," he says. "We probably sound like a group of grannies in a knitting circle but it's the truth and it gives us some control over our visual identity. When you are a big band and everyone is taking shots at you, the more things you can do together the better. And if you're wearing uniforms made by your own hands it helps achieve that."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Mendes OKs nip/tuck

COSMETIC SURGERY Actress Eva Mendes will have no hesitation about going under the knife, when her figure starts to sag, female-first.co.uk reports.

Mendes is currently baring almost all in a series of Calvin Klein billboard advertisements, and has previously posed topless for Vogue magazine.

But the 34-year-old acknowledges her looks will only last so long, and she is ready to check in for some cosmetic surgery when she needs to.

"When the time comes, I'm going to nip it and tuck it all," Mendes tells Star magazine.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Hudson accused in hairy lawsuit

LEGAL Kate Hudson is at the sharp end of a bizarre new lawsuit — bosses of a haircare company have accused her of stealing their volcano ash, imdb.com reports.

220 Labs bosses claim the actress stole their idea for a secret volcano ash hair product.

Lawyers for 220 Labs are demanding unspecified damages.

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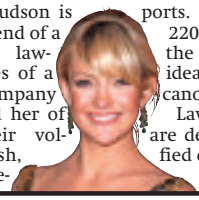

Radcliffe pans prudish fans

NUDITY Daniel Radcliffe has slammed prudish fans who refuse to see his naked scenes in theatre show Equus — because he is sick of people branding the production "pornography," imdb.com reports.

The teen actor was required to disrobe on stage when he starred in the dramatic play Equus in London's West End last year — a role he'll soon reprise on Broadway.

And the star is shocked by the reaction of older female fans, insisting his nude scene is no big deal.

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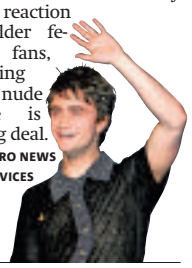

O'Day sick of Paris comparison

RUMOUR Danity Kane star Aubrey O'Day has hit out at people who liken her to Paris Hilton, branding them "horrible" for making the comparison, imdb.com reports.

The blond is sick of being mistaken for the hotel heiress — because she is "nothing like that girl."

"Whenever I carry my dog around, people say 'Paris Hilton' " she says. "I absolutely love my dog and I'm nothing like that girl."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

"This makes no sense at all..."

by Joe O'Neill

So **Hugh Hefner** has offered **Pamela Anderson** a place to stay at his mansion should she ever become homeless. I'm guessing Hugh has seen recent pictures of a haggard-looking Anderson and mistakenly believes that she is homeless. In any case, I've taken the liberty of making public the following list of rules for overnight guests at the Playboy mansion, specifically tailored for Canada's own Pammie, should she ever need them :

"It's a little known fact that Hugh Hefner suffers from ornithophobia, so you can't bring the 1,000 live chickens you rescued from Colonel Sanders with you to the mansion. All former playmates at the mansion must insert staples in their navels so Hefner will be able to recognize them. Exercise on the stationary bike with the special invasive seat attachment is mandatory.

When changing Hefner's adult diaper, eye contact is strictly forbidden. Hugh Hefner prefers the term 'Dream Enabler' to 'Decrepit Flesh Peddler.'

Hef wants everyone at the mansion to be comfortable, his version of comfortable, so you must wear either silk pyjamas or nothing.

Work the following phrase into your conversation as frequently as possible: "Eighty-two is the new 56."

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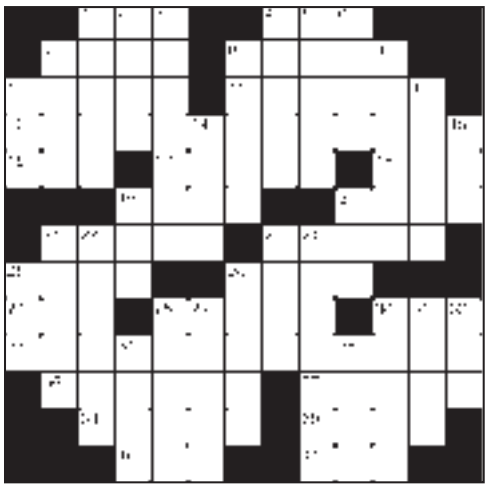
Rodriguez to return to Lost

Michelle Rodriguez, right, is reportedly returning to Lost this season, ew.com reports. Details of her comeback are shrouded in secrecy, but she's to be back for one episode, reportedly this season's second episode. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Take Five



Crossword down

1 Battery terminal
2 "— noted"
3 Inclined
4 Cougars
5 Characteristic
6 "— She Sweet?"
7 Go no further
8 Made crow noises
9 Masthead name
10 The whole enchilada
12 Japanese cartooning style
14 Undraped
15 Coll. transcript stat
19 "See ya"
20 Opposed to
21 Rodents of South America
22 Dr. Robert, with an eponymous diet
23 Darjeeling dress
24 Loot, as the Vikings did
25 Legislation
26 Photo finish?
28 Erstwhile larvae
29 Establish, as 25-Down
30 Game-show group
31 Crafts' partners
32 Yr. divisions
34 Spigots
35 One-on-one battle

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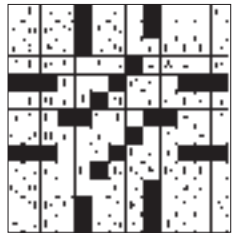
Crossword across

1 Big hoopla
4 Bake-sale org.
7 Give the cold shoulder
8 Radium discoverer
10 Bikini, e.g.
11 "Hairspray" actress Bynes
13 Queen's attendant
16 Caustic solution
17 Search
18 Gratuity
19 Melville's Billy
20 Deep sleep
21 Check casher
23 Fern product
25 After curfew
26 Primary
27 Interjection in "Cathy" comics
28 Oyster's prize
30 Manhandle
33 1967 Audrey Hepburn film
36 Address bitingly
37 Cousins' moms
38 "The final frontier"
39 The Bee —
40 Prepared
41 Right angle

previous day's answer



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Funds will be raised for a business plan. Tension results in more effective communication. Friends make decisions that will change your mind.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Run errands before a deadline. A professional gets to first base. Sparks start to fly, but don't throw yourself into anything.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Finances might force a showdown. There's an easy escape from a selfish action. Brief tension occurs when advantage is taken.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Feeling doubtful makes you play tough. Take charge to improve the state of your teamwork. Someone grabs your attention with a secret message.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Nobody can be blamed for disturbing news. Agree to a compromise that's designed to stabilize. Be less stressed by ignoring a weird situation.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
A prankster wants to get serious about life. Repay deceitfulness with honesty and humour. Defuse a situation by asking for help.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A secret attraction leads to an unexpected realization. A reasonable woman has a naughty story to tell. Don't give up on a mischievous man.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24- NOV 22
Don't become a recluse while waiting for someone. Sudden moves will produce a stunning result. Take the chance of a lifetime.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23- DEC 21
Take some time out to play. An encounter will shock and intrigue you. Someone's need for attention makes you claustrophobic.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
A ranting man gets frosty treatment from you. Keep someone talking if you want answers. Telling a true story will make you look good.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Shivers of excitement result from a compliment. Your work is putting you in the spotlight. Squelch any distress that won't stand up to scrutiny.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MAR 20
News of plans gone awry sets the tone for the day. Anxiety will produce family problems. A hostile snub depicts malice at a meeting.

Spiritual Psychic

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This day in history

AUG. 27, 1813: French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte defeats a larger force of Austrians, Russians and Prussians at the Battle of Dresden.
AUG. 27, 1859: Petroleum discovered in Titusville, Pennsylvania. World's first successful oil well.
AUG. 27, 1927: American aviators Billy Brock and Ed Schlee fly the Pride of Detroit over London on the way to completing the first-ever flight around the world.
AUG. 27, 1993: The Rainbow Bridge, connecting Tokyo's Shibaura and the island of Odaiba, is completed.
AUG. 27, 2003: Mars makes its closest approach to Earth in nearly 60,000 years.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sudoku

	6		8		7	9	2	
					1			4
4						1		3
	8		4			3	5	
				3				
	5	1			2		9	
5		4						9
9			1					
	3	2	7		4		6	

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU:
The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

previous day's answer

1	3	5	7	4	6	2	8	9
8	2	7	1	9	3	4	5	6
4	9	6	5	8	2	7	3	1
7	6	4	9	3	8	5	1	2
5	1	2	4	6	7	8	9	3
3	8	9	2	5	1	6	4	7
9	5	3	6	7	4	1	2	8
2	7	8	3	1	5	9	6	4
6	4	1	8	2	9	3	7	5

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME IN MINUTES:

Under 13. . . . . Genius
13-17 . . . . . Scholar
17-21. . . . . Smart
21-25. . . . . Not bad
25+ . . . . . Keep practising

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Vancouver weather

The Weather Network theweathernetwork.com

Afternoon	Tonight	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Partly sunny. 19°	Cloudy. Low 13°	Cloudy. 17°/ 14°	Rain. 18°/ 11°	Mainly sunny. 17°/ 9°

100%

Temperature
Normals
High: 20.7°
Low: 12.3°

Records
High: 27.2°/1967
Low: 7.2°/1937

Sunrise: 6:22 a.m.
Sunset: 8:04 p.m.
Moonrise: 2:07 a.m.
Moonset: 6:44 p.m.

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INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights 4-star all-inclusive accom.

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INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 3 nights 3-star accom in Manhattan. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $34 per night. **ADD** select Broadway show or musical from $99.

Asian Holidays

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FROM **$1439**

INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, 7 nights 4-star accom in Bali and 2 nights 4-star central in Tokyo. Extensions available. **ADD** Mt Fuji and Hakone day tour from $147.

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INCLUDES roundtrip international and domestic airfare, 7 nights 4-star accom in Phuket and 3 nights 3.5-star accom in Bangkok with direct access from the hotel to the sky train. **ADD** Phuket jungle elephant trek from $36.

Tokyo & Mt Fuji FROM **$1299**
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, 7 nights 3-star accom in Tokyo and Mt Fuji & Hakone full day tour by bullet train with lunch. **ADD** 7-day unlimited travel Japan Rail pass from $284.

Hong Kong 4-Star FROM **$1399**
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers, 7 nights 4-star accom with daily breakfast, a Hong Kong island tour and a city & harbour night tour including a visit to Temple St, dinner & cruise on a tradition Chinese junk.

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Las Vegas Cruise & Stay FROM **$569^**
INCLUDES 3-day Pacific Coastal cruise sailing from Vancouver to Los Angeles in an oceanview cabin with balcony, cruise transfer, airfare to Las Vegas, 2 nights 3.5-star accom on the Las Vegas Strip and return airfare to Vancouver. **UPGRADE** to mini-suite cabin with balcony and 4-star Vegas accom from $15 per day.

New Orleans Cruise & Stay FROM **$799^**
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, 3 nights 3-star accom in the heart of the New Orleans French Quarter and a 4-night caribbean cruise in an oceanview cabin sailing roundtrip from New Orleans and visits Cozumel, Mexico. **ADD** a New Orleans cooking class from $34. **ADD** historic steamboat Natchez cruise and super city tour from $47.

Panama Canal FROM **$969^**
INCLUDES 10-night Royal Caribbean cruise and onboard meals & entertainment. Sail roundtrip from Miami and visit Aruba, Cartagena, Panama Canal, Puerto Limon and Grand Cayman. Price includes port charges. **UPGRADE** to oceanview stateroom from $31 per day.

Hawai'i FROM **$1249^**
INCLUDES 7-day Norwegian cruise and onboard meals & entertainment. Sail roundtrip from Honolulu and visit Maui, Hilo, Kona and Kauai. Price includes port charges. **UPGRADE** to oceanview cabin from $37 per day.

European Holidays

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INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and your first 2 nights 4-star central accom with breakfast. **ADD** Rhine Valley cruise & wine tasting from $128.

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INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and the first 2 nights 3-star central accom with breakfast. **ADD** 4-day Britrail Flexipass from $262.

Paris 3.5-Star FROM **$559**
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and the first 2 nights 3.5-star central accom with breakfast. **ADD** 2-day Le Paris Visite pass from $46.

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